

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to address the body at this time concerning the Rules Committee. A statement was made yesterday from Senator Chambers that the rules were an attempt to fix Ernie. Well, that's not true. The intent was, as you hopefully are aware, to more evenly distribute the workload between the...among the committees. We went over that issue, the background, as to why, how we wanted to accomplish it, give Judiciary another day for its work. To do that, of course, we had to have one more day and the choice in the proposal was to merge the two committees because those were the two committees with the most similar issues to deal with. The Rules Committee was looking for a more effective and efficient way to handle the work that we do. I am an "agriculturalist". I'm a farm wife. I'm a farmer. I am a walking wounded, if you've noticed my walking the last few days. I had a wrestling match with a calf and I lost, so I earn my living on the farm. And it was not anyone's attempt to do something harmful to the agriculture community or the Agriculture Committee. After or when we had our public hearing, there were no testifiers there other than the introducers of the rules, and, as I stated in my opening remarks yesterday, part of those initial rules proposals were withdrawn, so we were dealing with just the idea, how do we get Judiciary some more time. We acted as a committee with the best interests of the entire body at heart. Since last evening and until about ten minutes ago, we did a straw poll of the entire body. We...the Rules Committee believes that we do have a slim majority in support of the concept, but we're not willing to take the body's time for the extended debate that we still could be seeing, and I would ask the body's consent to withdraw the remaining proposals to change the rules.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Without objection, the amendments are withdrawn.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have nothing further pending to the motion to adopt permanent rules.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Discussion on the adoption of the motion to adopt permanent rules? Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature,